OPERATIONS IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 6

3 OCTOBER 1991

Of the 1.4 million Iraqis who had taken refuge in Iran in early May, and the 400,000 who had fled to Turkey and its border regions, all but some 60,000 in Iran and some 5,000 in Turkey have returned. *Pages 1,4,7,8*

On 24 September, 2,500 trucks began to ship winter building materials from Turkey to northern Iraq for UNHCR's comprehensive winter preparation programmes for the most vulnerable Iraqi returnees. *Pages 4,7*

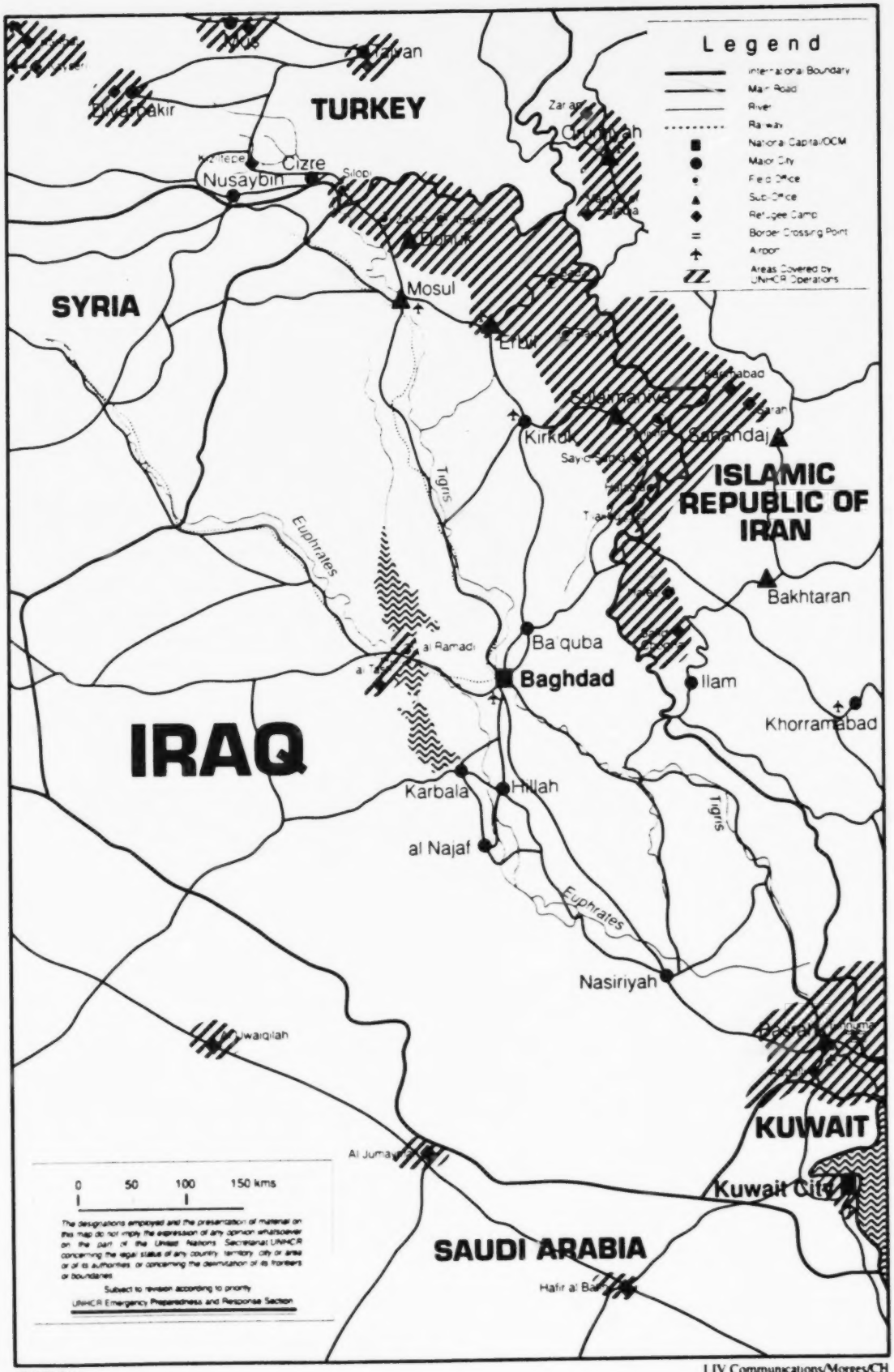
The updated United Nations Plan of Action issued in Geneva on 1 September foresees the revised 1991 requirements of UNHCR at US$ 220 million. *Pages 1,2*

In Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, UNHCR is increasing its presence in order to find durable solutions for refugees and stateless persons stranded after the Persian Gulf war. *Page 9*

The Persian gulf crisis has proved to be an unprecedented example of UN-NGO collaboration. UNHCR works in partnership with over 30 NGOs in Turkey, Iran and Iraq. *Pages 10,11*

UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



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INTRODUCTION

The Emergency Shelter Programmes

As a harsh winter approaches in Northern Iraq and Iran, UNHCR has launched one of the most ambitious emergency shelter programmes ever undertaken by the Office. In Iraq, the aim is to provide up to 62,000 displaced returnee families - close to 400,000 people - in the Governorates of Dohuk, Erbil and Suleimaniyah with temporary shelter and the basics to survive freezing winter temperatures. For this purpose 22,000 cubic meters of timber, 5,400 MT of corrugated iron sheets, tools, heaters, stoves, blankets, quilts and sleeping bags will be transported and distributed using a logistics chain comprising some 2,500 trucks, and a network of some forty warehouses. The massive operation will be coordinated through UNHCR's 12 Field Offices by 150 international staff. UNHCR will also count on the precious support of local authorities and numerous N.G.O.s. For the 40,000 Iraqi refugees threatened by a cold winter in the north-western Provinces of Iran, UNHCR is delivering and setting up 3,300 prefabricated dwellings that can withstand temperatures of minus 26 degrees centigrade.

Recent Unrest

Recent unrest compelled UNHCR to change its initial planning assumptions. When the Iraq winter programme was planned in early July, it was assumed that the majority of the 650,000 displaced returnees would return to their previous homes in lower altitude areas. The target population for the winter programme, those who would remain in the mountains, was estimated at 40,000 families. Renewed violence at the beginning of September in some of the major cities in northern Iraq compelled a revision of the initial planning figures as the flow of the displaced down from the mountains slowed down and in some cases, was even reversed. The target beneficiary figure, as a result was revised to 62,000 families in need of winter shelter by mid-November. The return of the displaced to their habitual homes has not been encouraged by the absence of a UN office in Kirkuk for which a number of requests have been made to the authorities.

Case by Case Review

In Turkey, UNHCR has initiated a case by case review of the remaining Iraqi refugees, both those who fled in 1988 and in 1991, in order to ascertain their status and eventual eligibility for resettlement. UNHCR is also assisting with on-going repatriation. To counter environmental hazards, a cleaning campaign has been started in ex-camps. Turkey is furthermore the major staging post for UNHCR's winter programmes in Iraq and Iran.

Stranded Refugees

In Kuwait, a high level UNHCR mission at the beginning of August, reached an agreement with the authorities for sending staff to address the pressing needs of refugees and stateless persons stranded in the Abdali camp and in Kuwait city. As a result of close cooperation developed with the Kuwaiti authorities, durable solutions have been found for most of the people in Abdali and it should be possible to close the camp shortly. Similarly in Saudi Arabi, UNHCR is addressing the individual needs of stranded refugees and asylum seekers. In Jordan and Syria, UNHCR offices established at the height of the Persian Gulf crisis, continue to assist refugees displaced as a result of the war.

Financial Update.

An up-dated United Nations Plan of Action covering the period until 31 December was issued on September 1. UNHCR activities for 1991 are budgeted at US$ 220 million. Contributions recorded by 30 September amount to US$ 206 million leaving a shortfall of US$ 14 million.

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ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES IN TURKEY, IRAN AND IRAQ
SUMMARY BUDGET FOR MAY-DECEMBER 1991
(All figures in US $)

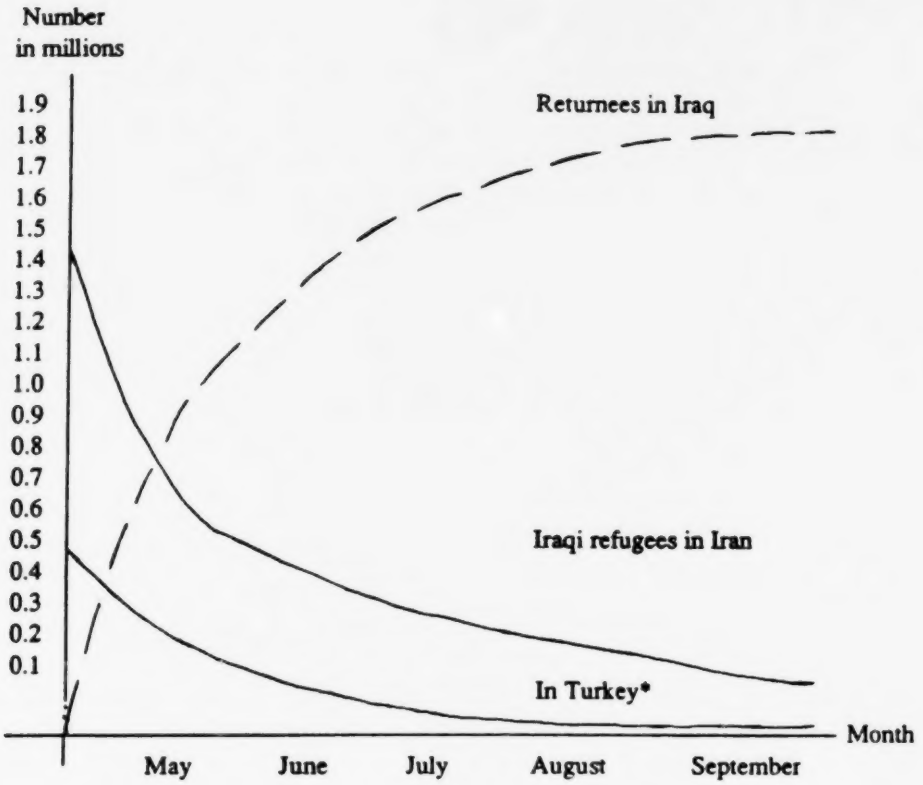
SECTOR	TURKEY	IRAN	IRAQ	TOTAL
Food	—	800,000	1,600,000	2,400,000
Transport/ Logistics	600,000	7,800,000	11,800,0001	20,200,000
Domestic Needs	600,000	7,100,000	10,800,000	18,500,000
Water	450,000	8,700,000	3,400,000	12,550,000
Sanitation	750,000	7,700,000	1,600,000	10,050,000
Health	200,000	2,000,000	3,800,000	6,000,000
Shelter/other infrastructure	500,000	26,600,000	23,500,000	50,600,000
Community services	100,000	—	—	100,000
Legal assistance	—	—	400,000	400,000
Operational support - Field	800,000	3,800,000	4,800,000	19,400,000
HQ/other countries				6,800,000
TOTAL	4,000,000	64,500,000	71,100,000	147,000,000

Total expenditure incurred by UNHCR under the Regional Humanitarian Plan of Action for the period January-April 1991: 73,000,000

Revised UNHCR total requirements for the Regional Humanitarian Plan of Action for the period January-December 1991: 220,000,000

IRAQI REFUGEES / RETURNEES

May to September 1991



** Includes refugees in the Turkey/Iraq border region,but does not include Iraqi refugees who fled in 1988*

IRAQ

Over half a million not back home

Internal conflict in Northern Iraq in March compelled some 1.8 million Iraqis to flee to the border regions of Turkey and Iran. By the end of September the majority had returned to Iraq. Some moved back to their previous homes, but at least 650,000 remained away from their homes in border areas of the Sulaimanyia, Erbil and Dohuk Governorates. Of this group, some decided to settle in the ruins of their original villages, while others are awaiting the outcome of negotiations between the Government of Iraq and the Kurdish leadership in temporary shelters in the mountains. As winter approaches, many of the latter group are expected to move down to the valleys where permanent shelter is available in towns or collective villages. UNHCR has made special arrangements for those who will not move.

Preparing for a winter in the cold

In one of its largest logistics operations ever, UNHCR on 25 September, began to move 2,500 trucks with construction materials from Turkey to the Suleimaniyah, Erbil and Dohuk provinces in Iraq. This operation is part of UNHCR's preparations for up to 62,000 families (372,000 people) who may remain in exposed areas where temperatures drop to well below freezing. Many have already started to insulate their makeshift dwellings with mud bricks and stone from destroyed villages. UNHCR's shelter programme will supplement their efforts by providing them with a full winter kit: roofing materials, tools (pickaxes, shovels, nails...), blankets, kerosene stoves, heaters, kerosene, jerry cans, mattresses and winter clothing. Some 15,000 winter tents will also be kept in reserve. The programme is being implemented by local committees and NGOs, some of whom are contributing their own funds to the winter shelter construction programme. It will be completed by the end of November.

A fully integrated programme

Under the same programme, health services and water supply systems are being restored in valley towns and villages to allow the displaced in the mountains to return. Sufficient generators, pumps and piping will be installed to repair at least 50 village and town water systems. At least twenty health centres, hospitals and clinics are to be renovated and provided with sufficient medical supplies for the winter. Winter preparations are being undertaken in both Government and non-Government controlled areas. With UNHCR, WFP will continue to provide food during the winter for some 390,000 returnees. IOM in coordination with UNHCR will provide transport to those displaced who wish to return to the towns or Government resettlement villages.

Repatriation to Iran

UNHCR has now initiated organized repatriation of Iranian refugees from Al Tash camp, west of Baghdad. The first convoy of 400 returnees has left on 28 September. Regular convoys will follow with some 500 repatriants each. The truck convoys are accompanied by UNHCR staff members from Iraq and from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Extensive social service programme for target winter population commenced. First phase for data collection on pregnant women, widows, handicapped, and identification of midwveswith assistance programme to follow during second phase. Also aiming to contain begging phenomena and address problems of street children, identify school children age 6-12 and include schools in winterization project. One school year already lost.

From a UNHCR Field Office Penjwi sitrep

IMPRESSIONS FROM THE FIELD

The legacy of years of conflicts is painfully inescapable. No family has escaped its share of the tragedy. The sheer numbers of widows, orphans, handicapped and abandoned elderly bear silent witness to the effect of conflict on the innocent. Within the winter shelter programme, we have made special allowances for them, by financing the building of their shelters where they cannot do so themselves.

John Telford
Head of Sub-Office, Suleimaniyah

There is right now a massive outflow of displaced returnees from the mountains towards the valleys and their homes. The preoccupation remains that the people from Kirkuk are still hesitant to return, despite Government encouragement. This is of serious concern to UNHCR since their decision, one way or the other, will determine the type of assistance that these 120,000 people will require, and where it is to be provided.

Pierre-François Pirlot,
Deputy Chief of Mission, Baghdad

Returnees to Kirkuk: are there more to come?

Letter from a UNHCR Medical Coordinator

UNHCR Suleimaniyah

29 September 1991

Dear Colleagues,

I must say this has been an exhausting operation. On my arrival, MSF was the only health NGO on the ground for a displaced population of some 500,000. Diarrhoea and typhoid have been rampant and we have had cases of cholera too - no epidemics, thank God. In the Suleimaniyah hospital alone, mine injuries were averaging 600 a month. Many health centres and hospitals were damaged, burnt or looted. With no formal Ministry of Health presence in many areas, few local health staff, few standing buildings throughout most of Penjwin and a highly mobile population moving up and down the mountains, morbidity and mortality surveillance was for the most part a dream.

We have now established some order. We have teams from Lower Saxony in Kalar and Halabja helping to provide services to around 170,000 people. IRC and COR are covering the mountainous areas of Penjwin and Raniya, where there are another 170,000 people. MedAir is covering Penjwin town and MSF, Said Sadiq. Through MSF, Danchurch and COR, we are financing winter rehabilitation of essential hospitals and dispensaries. With UNICEF and the NGOs we should have all the kids protected against measles for the winter even in the most remote mountain villages. We are beginning an intensive health training programme in the outlying areas and will re-equip all the traditional birth attendants for the winter. We are also prepositioning contingency stocks of drugs in strategic areas.

Thank you for your efforts in bringing Handicapped International here. Everyone is eagerly awaiting their arrival. There is absolutely no prosthetic workshop. The number of children and adults without limbs is horrifying. In Penjwin, a combined health/social services assessment carried out by our Field Office indicates around two per cent of all returnees have lost one or more limbs (1% < 15 years, 1% ≥ 15 years). In cold figures this means 5000 persons just in Penjwin, half of them children, in need of prostheses. The same survey indicated that some 4 per cent of all households are headed by widows. We are of course, taking this into account in our programming.

Look forward to seeing you soon,

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Estimated Remaining Iraqi Refugee Population in camps by Province

Province	From the 1991 influx	From the 1988 influx
West Azerbaijan	11,500	17,500
Kurdistan	7,210	4,480
Bakhtaran	11,880	4,950
Khuzistan	20,340	-
Lorestan	6,720	-
Total*	57,650	26,930

* In addition an estimated 25 to 30,000 Iraqi refugees are spontaneously settled outside camps in urban and rural areas.

Reduced repatriation flow

In only a few months, the Islamic Republic of Iran witnessed one of the most dramatic rates of influx as well as one of the largest repatriation movements ever. In late April there were some 1.4 million refugees in 98 camps. Now only 30 camps remain. Since mid-August the number of refugees returning to Iraq has decreased. Regular cross border meetings between UNHCR and IOM officers ensure the coordination of the steady, but reduced flow of repatriants.

Winter preparations

The Iranian winter is harshest in the three northern border Provinces of West Azerbaijan, Kurdistan and Bakhtaran. UNHCR is preparing six winter camps in these provinces. 3,300 prefabricated shelter units that can withstand temperatures of minus 26 centigrade are being installed to provide, housing, health posts and administrative centres for a population of 40,000. The first units will be in place by early November. Should repatriation lead to an affected Iraqi refugee population of less than 40,000, the winter shelter units will be put at the disposal of Iranian returnees from Al Tash camp in Iraq, whose homes were destroyed in prior conflict.

The winterization programme has a dual objective: One is to address the basic needs of the remaining refugees over the coming winter season and two, to establish a minimum infrastructure throughout the western Provinces to allow for the accommodation of a possible backflow of refugees in a historically refugee prone region. In view of the different climatic conditions prevailing in Khuzestan and Lorestan, emphasis will be placed there on the upgrading of some existing townships and the construction of traditional homes.

From a Policy Document of the Office of the Charge de Mission in Tehran

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

Repatriation down to a trickle

The refugee population in Turkey has remained broadly stable after the massive return movement of some 400,000 Iraqi refugees in May and June. Small groups continue to repatriate from the Haj camp at Silopi, where there are now 5,000 refugees. UNHCR is also facilitating voluntary repatriation from the camps in Turkey hosting the 25,000 Iraqi refugees who fled in 1988. In September, a total of 2,000 Iraqi refugees returned home from Turkey with UNHCR assistance.

Upgrading camp facilities

Parallel to the repatriation programme, UNHCR is upgrading camp facilities. Major upgrading will occur of sanitation and water facilities at Silopi and the 1988 camps. To avoid pollution of neighbouring village water sources, a clean up campaign is being planned at the Cukurca mountain camp.

Logistic support

UNHCR has remained in Diyarbarkir and Silopi in eastern Turkey to support the enormous logistics effort required for UNHCR's winter programme in the Kurdish area of Iraq. The assembly of convoys and the cross-border movement of some 2,500 trucks bringing building materials to Iraq is being coordinated by UNHCR from Silopi. Purchase of some winter materials is also being undertaken in Turkey.

Returnees from Turkey building for the Iraqi winter

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Durable solutions sought

At the end of the Gulf war, Saudi Arabia like other countries in the region, was faced with an influx of refugees. The country now accomodates 35,000 Iraqis in two camps, Artawiyeh and Rafha. The Saudi Government has informed UNHCR that it has spent over US$ 220 million on food, medical and relief supplies for the refugees and prisoners of war.

The ICRC is assisting the Iraqi prisoners of war and helping those who want to return to Iraq. In early September, the Saudi authorities made an official request to UNHCR to assist in finding a durable solution for those Iraqis who could not return home. A survey of the refugee population is planned to facilitate status determination on a case by case basis. For this purpose, UNHCR is discussing the strengthening of its presence with the Saudi authorities.

KUWAIT

Increased UNHCR presence

As a result of a high level UNHCR mission at the beginning of August, UNHCR has increased its presence in Kuwait, where there are an estimated 800 refugees and stateless persons stranded in the desert camp of Abdali near the Iraqi border and some 60 persons, of concern to UNHCR, detained in centres in Kuwait city. As a result of intensive work by UNHCR technical teams and close cooperation with the Kuwaiti authorities, a range of durable solutions are now being implemented. These include repatriation, resettlement to a third country and admission to Kuwait. The implementation of durable solutions will enable the Kuwaiti authorities to close the Abdali camp, where living conditions were not satisfactory. UNHCR is discussing with the Kuwaiti authorities the future prospects of other persons, whose status requires determination.

Cooperation with N.G.O.s

UNHCR works with N.G.O.s in Iran, Iraq and Turkey. Collaboration occurs through formal operational agreements, letters of association and informal cooperative measures. In numerous recent international conferences, the Gulf emergency has been cited as a comprehensive living case study in partnership between voluntary agencies and operational UN organizations. The winter preparation programme became the basis of an effective coordinated approach comprising three basic components: Joint needs assessment and project planning, decentralization of operational decision-making and the secondment of NGO staff. The use of specialized, technical NGO staff from SCF /USA and LWF and personnel from the Danish and Norwegian refugee councils, funded by their Governments, has recently proved particularly invaluable.

In Turkey N.G.O.s cooperate with UNHCR in the traditional assistance programmes, in camp clean up activities and as a support structure for the Iraq programme. In Iran, NGOs operate with UNHCR in the health, water, sanitation, food and non-food relief sectors.

The winter shelter programme is an example of close cooperation in Iraq. It was brought to life as follows. A water/sanitation/site planning specialist seconded to UNHCR by the Lutheran World Federation with HCR and other NGO technical staff drafted a winter shelter programme for north and north-eastern Iraq taking various population movement scenarios into account. The plan was shared with NGOs operating in Iraq and, through meetings in Geneva and missions in Europe, with other interested NGOs. Having studied the plan, numerous NGOs sent missions to the area and in consultation with UNHCR, geographical and technical areas of operation were established. International NGOs assisting in the implementation of the project are: Architectes Ingenieurs du Monde, the International Rescue Committee, Shelter Now International, Caritas Switzerland, Inter Church Aid Switzerland in Dohuk Governorate, Action Nord-Sud, Save the Children Fund UK in Erbil Governorate and Christian Outreach, Danish Church Aid, Equilibre, and IRC in Suleimaniyah Governorate.

International NGOs operating in Turkey, Iran and Iraq with formal or informal association with UNHCR

Turkey

Care International USA	cleanup of border camps, support for Iraq operations
Global Partners	support for Iraq operations
International Rescue Committee	support for Iraq operations
Médecins sans Frontières	support for Iraq operations
Save the Children Federation USA	elementary education and health/social services for women and children in Silopi Haj camp
League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies with the Turkish Red Crescent	Follow -up assistance to Haj camp and other TRC projects

Iran

Bakhtaran province

Care International, Australia	water and food relief
CICS-Italy	health
Médecins sans Frontières, Belgium	health
Hôpitaux sans Frontières, France	health
Pharmaciens sans Frontières, France	central pharmacy
Architectes sans Frontières, France	rehabilitation/contruction programme
Islamic Sudanese Relief Agency	health

Khuzistan province

Save the Children Fund, UK	water, health, sanitation and supplementary food

Western Azarbaijan

Caritas Austria	winterization

Iraq

Dohuk Governorate

Architectes Ingénieurs du Monde, France	village construction
Care International, Australia	food and non-food distribution
Global Partners, United Kingdom	health, water
International Rescue Committee, USA	health, water, sanitation, shelter
Médecins sans Frontières, Belgium	health, sanitation
Oxfam, Belgium	agricultural supplies for Kurdish Relief Organization
Shelter Now International, USA	shelter, water
Caritas Switzerland, Inter Church Aid, Switzerland	winter shelter
Northwest Medical Team, USA	logistics

Erbil Governorate

Action Internationale contre la Faim (AICF), France	health, sanitation, food
Action Nord-Sud, France	health, shelter
Care International, Australia	food and non-food distribution
German Emergency Doctors , Germany	health
Pharmaciens sans Frontières, France	health, pharmaceutical logistics
Save the Children Fund, UK	health, shelter
Voluntary Relief Doctors, Germany	health
Danish Refugee Council	water

Suleimaniyah Governorate

Care International, Australia	food and non food distribution
Christian Outreach, UK	health, shelter
Danish Church Aid, Denmark	shelter, water
Equilibre, France	health, food distribution
International Rescue Committee, USA	health
Medair, Switzerland	health
Médecins du Monde, France	health
Oxfam, UK	water, sanitation
Pharmaciens sans Frontières, France	health, pharmaceutical logistics

CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS UNHCR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IN THE GULF REGION (1990-1991) *

DONOR	USD
Australia	878,566
Austria	1,910,000
Brunei Darussalam	20,000
Canada	5,492,768
Denmark	8,306,378
Finland	3,955,100
France	1,550,388
Germany	38,220,552
Iceland	88,497
Ireland	234,375
Italy	650,423
Japan	42,700,000
Liechtenstein	13,423
Luxembourg	675,676
Netherlands	3,055,266
New Zealand	147,700
Norway	5,202,754
Republic of Korea	300,000
Saudi Arabia	653,333
Spain	269,970
Sweden	13,152,704
Switzerland	2,359,020
Tunisia	4,539
United Kigdom	8,095,000
United States of America	40,177,653
Yugoslavia	225,225
European Community (IGO)	21,180,723
Austcare (AUL)	162,852
Human Rights and Democratic Development Int. Centre (CAN)	8,772
Islamic Association of Sudbury (CAN)	6,500
Deutsche Stiftung fur UNO-Fluchtlingshilfe (FRG)	11,834
Medico International (FRG)	584,795
Egawa Unso Chuto Nanmin Kyuen-Kai (JPN)	36,232
Fujisawa City Office (JPN)	5,216
Han Sabetsu Kokusai Undo Nihon Iinkai (JPN)	72,464
Hiroshima Prefectual Parliament (JPN)	7,299
Japan Committee for Refugee Relief (JPN)	2,000,000
Japan Joint NGOs (JPN)	20,463
Japan Times (JPN)	21,739
Jinrui Aizen-Kai (JPN)	14,493
Jodoshinshu Honganji-ha Aki-kyolu (JPN)	36,232
Jodoshu (JPN)	108,696
Kanagawa Prefecture (JPN)	72,464
Komeito Fukuoka Prefectural Headquarters (JPN)	14,493
Konko-kyo Heiwa Katsudo Centre (JPN)	94,607

* *Includes operations relating to the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait, assistance to refugees from Iraq in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey, assistance to returnees to Iraq, as well as assistance to Iranian refugees in Iraq.*

DONOR	USD
Koyasan Shingon-Shyu (JPN)	21,739
Kyuenki 'Matsumoto Shimin Go' o Tobasu Shimin no kai (JPN)	50,725
Mainichi Shimbun Social Welfare Foundation (JPN)	2,323
Mie Prefectural Hqs of Komeito Party (JPN)	2,304
National Ass. of Chairmen of Prefectural Assemblies (JPN)	17,424
National Federation of UNESCO Associations (JPN)	71,739
Nichiren Shu, Buddist Sector for Gulf Crisis (JPN)	75,758
Nihon Shakaito (JPN)	83,333
Okinawa-ken Rokyo Centre (JPN)	19,565
Rissho Kosei Kai (JPN)	20,000
Saint Alban's Church (JPN)	7,739
Seicho-no-Ie (JPN)	72,464
Socialist Party of Japan (JPN)	10,000
Soka Gakkai (JPN)	196,203
Soroptimist International (JPN)	7,246
Sotoshu (JPN)	289,855
Support for Gulf War Victims by People of Kanagawa (JPN)	27,946
Tendaishu (JPN)	144,928
Yokoyama-shi Jugyoin Rodo Kumiai (JPN)	5,844
Zenkoku Tomo-no Kai (JPN)	36,232
Zenkyo and other Unions (JPN)	73,030
24 Hour Television (JPN)	30,300
Adoption Family International (LUX)	437
Stichting Vluchteling (NET)	601,378
Basqu Government (SPA)	476,190
Communauté Bahai (SWI)	690
UNOG Staff Co-ordinating Council (SWI)	6,711
United Nations Association (GBR)	84,566
Private (CAN)	1,399
Private (FRG)	95
Private (JPN)	506,972
Private (SIN)	433
Private (SWI)	519
Private (USA)	46,120
TOTAL	**205,791,391**

Returnees, brick-making for an uncertain future

This bulletin is designed to present succint and factual information on UNHCR activities in the Persian Gulf region. It is not meant as a financial report nor as an official document of the Office but rather as an informal communications tool for the benefit of Governments, NGOs and the media.

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